Notification of the 86th Amendment to the Constitution

322. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that the 86th Amendment to the Constitution has not yet been implemented which was enacted five years ago; and

if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The Constitutional (Eighty-sixth) Amendment Act, 2002 notified on 13th December, 2002, inserted Article 21A in the Constitution, which provides that *"the State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years in such manner as the State may, by law, determine"*. Section 1(2) of the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act provides that *'it shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint'*. The notification has not yet been issued pending enactment of the consequential legislation envisaged under Article 21 A.

Percentage of drop-outs

323. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

what is the percentage of drop-outs at primary school level and secondary school level during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 for boys and girls;

the reasons for school drop-outs; and

the steps taken by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Latest data available on drop-out rates is for the year 2004-05. The percentage of drop-outs from primary to secondary stage for the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 are given as under:

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Primary Stage (Classes I-V)	34.9	31.5	29.0
Elementary Stage (Clases I-VIII)	52.8	52.3	50.8
Secondary Stage (Classes I-X)	62.6	62.7	61.9

The socio-economic and school related factors affect drop-outs.

A multi-prolonged approach has been adopted under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for reducing drop-out rates. These include, *inter alia,* strengthening of schools and improving the quality of education through improvement in school infrastructure, recruitment of additional teachers, provision of annual school grants, regular training of teachers, regular academic support to teachers etc. In addition, interventions under SSA also aim at building